

News Release

Group from University of Minnesota Crookston attends Minnesota Clean Energy and Jobs Action Day at the Capitol on Monday, February 2, 2015

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Friday, February 6, 2015A group of students and staff from the University of Minnesota Crookston recently attended

the Minnesota Clean Energy and Jobs Action Day event at the Minnesota State Capitol. They met for a training section on lobbying before meeting with Representative Debra Kiel from District 1B. The group sat in during a session with Governor Mark Dayton and a group of student panelists discussing their concerns. Attending the Minnesota Clean Energy and Jobs Action Day were Tory Stulen, a senior from New Hope, Minn., majoring in agricultural systems management; Betsy Johannsen, a junior from Hartland, Minn., double majoring in animal science and natural resources; Timothy Lee, a junior from St. Francis, Minn., majoring in natural resources; Alexander Nemmers, a senior from Glenwood, Minn., majoring in natural resources; Abigail Griffin, a senior from Maple Grove, Minn., majoring in animal science; DeAndra O'Connell, a 2014 graduate and sustainable community outreach coordinator in the Center for Sustainability; and Megan Luxford, a 2014 graduate and student personnel coordinator in the Center for Adult Learning.



By sharing their stories about energy efficiency, they hope to provide information to help demonstrate the need for changes in our energy consumption. The delegation from the U of M Crookston was interesting in helping to build on existing laws with a responsible clean energy plan that transitions the state to clean, renewable energy with sources such as wind and solar to improve energy efficiency and to increase renewable energy standards to 40% by 2030. They also are working to improve the yearly energy savings goals for utilities from 1.5 to 2%. The trip was a beneficial experience for the group. "I learned so much from this experience

that I probably would not have learned without attending" O'Connell says. "It was valuable to see first hand how lobbying works and that representatives and senators care to hear what the people they represent have to say."

Background

The Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs Campaign is a coalition of faith, labor, conservation and youth groups working to improve existing laws that require utilities to get more of their electricity from renewable energy and to reduce energy costs.

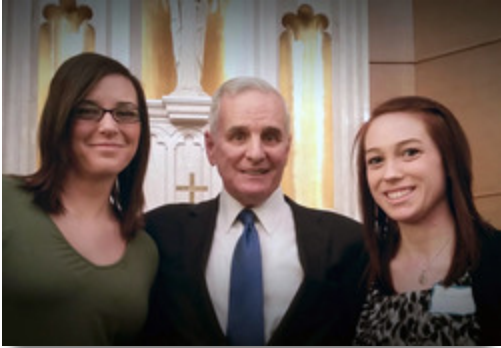
The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 31 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology.

With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visitwww.umn-crookston.edu.

In the photos, top right, left to right, back row: Nemmers, Lee, Luxford, Governor Dayton, Johannsen, Stulen and in the front row: Griffin and O'Connell.

Photo at left: Lee, Griffin, Nemmers , Representative Kiel, Stulen, O'Connell, Johannsen, and Luxford.

Photo at bottom, right: Megan Luxford, Governor Dayton, and Abigail Griffin.



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